

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

In accordance with amendment practice pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(i), please enter the "clean" set of "rewritten claims" set forth below. A "marked up" version of these claims is attached hereto as Exhibit 2 pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

Please amend the claims as follows:

b1  
3. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1, in which the particles or domains of the dispersed phase have dimension lower than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1, in which the pH regulating additive is selected from carbonates and hydroxides of alkaline-earth metals.

b2  
6. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1, in which the polysaccharide ester is a cellulose acetate with a degree of substitution of from 1.5 to 2.5.

7. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1, in which the pH regulating additive is present in a quantity of from 0.5 to 30% by weight relative to the weight of the starch and of the plasticised cellulose ester.

9. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1, comprising a further polymeric additive selected from the group consisting of:

- b3
- polymers or copolymers compatible with the polysaccharide ester, grafted with aliphatic or polyhydroxylated chains containing from 4 to 40 carbon atoms,
  - copolymers obtained from hydroxy-acids and diamines with 2-24 carbon atoms, aliphatic polyesters, polyamides, polyureas and polyalkylene glycols with aliphatic or aromatic diisocyanates,
  - copolymers produced from polymers compatible with the polysaccharide esters by grafting polyols soluble in starch.

34 11. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1, in which the further polymeric additive is selected from the group consisting of a polymer or copolymer compatible with the cellulose ester grafted with a fatty acid selected from oleic, lauric, palmitic, stearic, erucic, linoleic, and ricinoleic acids and a block copolymer between polycaprolactone and an aliphatic or aromatic diisocyanate.

12. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1 comprising a plasticizer for the starch phase, used in a quantity of from 0.5 to 50% relative to the weight of the starch.

13. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1, in which the ratio of plasticised cellulose-ester:starch is between 2:1 and 3:1 by weight.

14. (Amended) Manufactured articles produced from the compositions of claim 1.

#### REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 11-14 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. It is submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments.

In the Notice, the Examiner asserted that the amendment filed on June 6, 2001, was non-compliant with amendment practice pursuant to Rule 121. The Examiner required resubmission of the amendment in compliance with Rule 121. With a view toward furthering prosecution, the preliminary amendment is resubmitted in a form that complies with current rules of practice.